

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 7, 9, and 10, as amended, and new claim 12 are before the Examiner for consideration.

Applicants appreciate the statements in the Office Action that claims 7, 9 and 10 are allowed and that claims 2 and 3 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to include all of the limitations of the independent claim(s) from which they depend.

Claims 2 and 3 have been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of claim 1 (which should make them immediately allowable), claim 7 has been amended to correct formalities, and claims 1, 4-6, 8 and 11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 12 has been added, reciting subject matter deleted from claim 10.

1. Claims 1-6, 8 and 11 were objected to for containing as stated informality. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to remove redundant limitations, thereby mooting those objections.

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2. Claims 1, 4-6, 8 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Hosokawa et al. U.S. Patent 5,245,374.

Claims 1, 4-6, 8 and 11 have been canceled, thereby mooting the rejection.

All claims 2, 3, 7, 9, 10 and 12 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection stated in the Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of all claims 2, 3, 7, 9, 10 and 12 is respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

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